

**Professional Nursing Services
IFB # 3160004535
Amendment One
Questions and Answers**

Question Submission Deadline: September 17, 2021

Response Issue Date: September 22, 2021

Procurement Section, Page Number	Date Received	Question	Response
	Sept. 8, 2021	Is this a new initiative? If not, please provide the names of the current vendor(s) providing the services.	This is a new IFB. Agency is currently using vendors from the PPRB Preapproved Vendor List.
	Sept. 8, 2021	Can you please let us know the previous spending of this contract?	To view similar contract, please go to "Transparency" click "contracts" click "State of Mississippi Contracts" and under "Input Controls" filter contracts by service type (security service), under "View Contracts by" select "Contract Details". http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx
	Sept. 8, 2021	Please confirm if we can get the proposals or pricing of the incumbent(s)	The current Professional Nursing Services Preapproved Vendor List may be obtained by going to: http://www.mspb.ms.gov/media/33380/nursing%20services%20pvl.pdf
	Sept. 8, 2021	Are there any pain points or issues with the current vendor(s)	There are no issues with the Contractors currently used by the Agency.
	Sept. 8, 2021	Please confirm the anticipated number of awards.	The Agency will utilize multiple vendors, the number will be determined by the need of the Agency.

	Sept. 8, 2021	How many hours will the personnel work per week?	The Hours will vary as this will be a requirements contract.
	Sept. 8, 2021	Is there any forecasted/approved budget for this opportunity?	The budget will depend on the need of the Agency at the time of the contract inception.
	Sept. 8, 2021	What are the historical annual spending volumes in the project?	To view similar contract, please go to "Transparency" click "contracts" click "State of Mississippi Contracts" and under "Input Controls" filter contracts by service type (security service), under "View Contracts by" select "Contract Details". http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx
General	Sept. 9, 2021	What is the estimated budget for this IFB? If unknown, please specify spending.	The estimated budget will vary, depending on the needs of the Agency. For example: Nursing Service contract 8200043342 is for one year with four renewals with a dollar amount of two hundred forty-eight thousand dollars. (\$248,000). This contract is for nursing services at a rate of thirty-five dollars per hour (\$35) for RN, twenty-nine dollars per hour (\$29) for LPN.
General	Sept. 9, 2021	Please provide name of the current vendor providing the services with a copy of their proposal including cost sheet.	The current Professional Nursing Services Preapproved Vendor List may be obtained by going to: http://www.mspb.ms.gov/media/33380/nursing%20services%20pvl.pdf
General	Sept. 9, 2021	Kindly provide total number of temporary staffs on current assignment.	The number of temporary staff varies depending on the needs of the agency.
General	Sept. 9, 2021	What are the most frequently used job categories in the subject matter IFB?	The most utilized position of the contracts are LPNs.
General	Sept. 9, 2021	What is the average length of the assignment?	The contract length shall be for an initial one (1) year period with and additional four (4) one (1) year renewals.
General	Sept. 9, 2021	Is there any preference for local vendor?	No. All bid submissions receive the same review.
General	Sept. 9, 2021	Kindly specify total number of FTE's working and current \$ Value spent.	To view similar contract, please go to "Transparency" click "contracts" click "State of Mississippi Contracts" and under "Input Controls" filter contracts by service type (security service), under "View Contracts by" select "Contract Details". http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx

General	Sept. 9, 2021	Kindly provide list of attachments/forms to be provided with the response so to avoid compliance issues.	Attachments A through G are required as well as Amendment
General	Sept. 9, 2021	Kindly change submission method to online only	Submission will not be made online only.
Section 11-Registration with Mississippi Secretary of State, Page 13	Sept. 9, 2021	Do we need to attach business license for State of Mississippi with the response? Or is it after award requirement?	Business license is not required for bid submission.
Section 12-Insurance, Bonds, or other Sureties Page 14	Sept. 9, 2021	Do we need to provide this requirement with the proposal or is this after award requirement?	An informational COI can be issued with the Bid, but not required.
General	Sept. 9, 2021	Is it mandatory for a firm to have local address in vicinity? If yes how much weightage is there in evaluation?	No
Page 20-Is your company licensed and/or certified to provide Professional Nursing Services as required by any and all applicable Federal State law(s)?	Sept. 9, 2021	Kindly clarify what we have to provide in this?	The Company must be registered with the Secretary of State in Mississippi to provide Nursing Service Providers.
Page 20-List all licenses or permits your company possesses that are applicable to performing the services required in the IFB.	Sept. 9, 2021	Kindly clarify what we have to provide in this?	The awarded Contractor must be registered with the MS Secretary of State, and possess a current business license. Section 11. Provide valid insurance. Workers Compensation coverage as required by the State of MS Comprehensive General Liability or Professional Liability insurance, with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

			Employee Dishonesty or Fidelity Bond insurance with third party liability coverage and with minimum limits of \$1,000,000. Section 12 – Insurance, Bonds, or Other Sureties
8.2 Submission Requirements, Paragraph 8.2.2 & 8.2.4 page 12	Sept. 14, 2021	Please confirm that the submission deadline is October 7, 2021 , not October 1, 2021	The submission deadline is October 7, 2021, 12:00 PM
Attachment C References, pp. 25-26	Sept. 14, 2021	Given that the submission deadline is listed as October 7, 2021, should the deadline for all references to be submitted to the Agency on October 12, 2021?	Deadline for references are the same as the bid submission deadline.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Is this a re-compete IFB? If yes,	This is a new procurement for this Agency.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Could you please the name of Current Suppliers (who are currently providing services to Agency)?	Current suppliers are from the DFA's Preapproved Vendor List. DFA :: Preapproved Vendor Information (ms.gov)
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Could you please share current Suppliers pricing and Proposals?	This information can be found here: DFA :: Preapproved Vendor Information (ms.gov)
General	Sept. 15, 2021	When the existing contract was started, and what is the annual monetary spent value of the current contract since inception?	To view similar contract, please go to "Transparency" click "contracts" click "State of Mississippi Contracts" and under "Input Controls" filter contracts by service type (security service), under "View Contracts by" select "Contract Details". http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx
General	Sept. 15, 2021	How many resources are currently engaged in the current contract?	Currently the agency utilizes 3 vendors for this scope of work.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Can you please share the no. of positions served in previous years under this contract?	The number of positions varies.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Can you please share the amount of business each vendor did under this contract in previous years?	To view similar contract, please go to "Transparency" click "contracts" click "State of Mississippi Contracts" and under "Input Controls" filter contracts by service type (security service), under "View Contracts by" select "Contract Details". http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx

General	Sept. 15, 2021	What will be the estimated annual budget for this project?	To view similar contract, please go to "Transparency" click "contracts" click "State of Mississippi Contracts" and under "Input Controls" filter contracts by service type (security service), under "View Contracts by" select "Contract Details". http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx
General	Sept. 15, 2021	How man positions we can expect under this contract throughout the given term?	This depends on the needs of the Agency.
Section 5: Basis of Award; Page #10	Sept. 15, 2021	How many vendors agency is planning to select?	One or more depending on the needs of the agency.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	What would be the shift timings of the given positions?	All Shifts
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Can you please confirm the most commonly filled positions of this contract?	This type of contractor usually supplies LPNs.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	What would be the estimated hours for given positions?	The hours of service will vary depending on the needs of Agency.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Minimum guaranteed hours per week for these positions?	There will be no guaranteed minimum hours for this contract(s) this is a requirements contract, on an as needed basis.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Will is be a 13-week assignment or longer	The anticipated length of the contract will be for and initial one (1) year term with optional four (4) one (1) year renewals for a total of 5 years.
General	Sept. 15, 2021	Do we need to provide crisis rate besides the regular rate?	Rates requested can be found on Attachment B of the IFB.
8.1.3 References (Attachment C) Page #11	Sept. 15, 2021	Would you be accepting references from commercial entities?	Yes
8.1.3 References (Attachment C)	Sept. 15, 2021	A minimum of six (6) on the Reference Score Sheet (Attachment D) from reference interviews by agency staff with two (2) bidder references (for a total minimum scoring requirements of twelve (12) points), as well as all other requirements of this IFB. Question: As per our understanding we need to submit only Attachment C for references and agency will score on the	Bidders should submit Attachment C with their references. The Agency will complete the Attachment D upon verification of the references provided.

		<p>references on the basis of questionnaire provided on Attachment D, please confirm the same?</p> <p>Question: Do we need to submit Attachment D filled by our clients as reference with the response?</p>	
Attachment A Bid Cover Sheet, Page #20	Sept. 15, 2021	<p>If your company is not physically located within the vicinity, how will you supply Professional Nursing Services to the agency?</p> <p>Question: Is the local office within vicinity mandatorily required to execute the resulting contract?</p> <p>Question: Is there any local preference for evaluation of the bid?</p>	Local office is not mandatory to submit a bid. No preference. All bids will be considered.
Attachment A Bid Cover Sheet, Page #20	Sept. 15, 2021	<p>Is your company licensed and/or certified to provide Professional Nursing Services as required by any and all applicable Federal and State laws?</p> <p>Question: What all licenses and/or certificates are required to execute the resulting contract?</p>	<p>The awarded Contractor must be registered with the MS Secretary of State, and possess a current business license. Section 11.</p> <p>Provide valid insurance.</p> <p>Workers Compensation coverage as required by the State of MS Comprehensive General Liability or Professional Liability insurance, with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.</p> <p>Employee Dishonesty or Fidelity Bond insurance with third party liability coverage and with minimum limits of \$1,000,000.</p> <p>Section 12 – Insurance, Bonds, or Other Sureties</p>
Attachment A Bid Cover Sheet, Page #20	Sept. 15, 2021	<p>List all licenses or permits your company possesses that are applicable to performing the services required in this IFB.</p> <p>Question: we are TJC certified firm. Please confirm will it suffice the above requirement? If not, what all licenses or permits are required to suffice the above requirement?</p>	<p>The awarded Contractor must be registered with the MS Secretary of State, and possess a current business license. Section 11.</p> <p>Provide valid insurance.</p> <p>Workers Compensation coverage as required by the State of MS Comprehensive General Liability or Professional Liability insurance, with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.</p>

			Employee Dishonesty or Fidelity Bond insurance with third party liability coverage and with minimum limits of \$1,000,000. Section 12 – Insurance, Bonds, or Other Sureties
Attachment A Bid Cover Sheet, Page #21	Sept. 15, 2021	Describe any specific services such as mental health, long term care, medical surgical, etc., which your company offers along with any specialized experience, certification, and/or education of your current staff. Question: Can you please confirm apart from RNs, LPNs & CNAs what all services is agency seeking to obtain from the resulting contract so that we can offer you relevant additional services?	The Agency only seeks services for RNs, LPNs and CNAs with this procurement.
Attachment B Bid Form, Page #22	Sept. 15, 2021	The pricing quoted shall be inclusive of , but not limited to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All required equipment/material; 2. All required insurance, bond, or other surety; 3. All required overhead; 4. All required profit; 5. All required vehicles; 6. All required fuel and mileage; 7. All required labor and supervision; 8. All required business and professional certifications, licenses, permits, or fees; and 9. Any and all other costs. Question: Please confirm if there is any travel requirement while executing the resulting contract? If yes, can you please briefly state the travel requirement for the resulting contract?	There is no travel. See page 2 Section 1.

Attachment B Bid Form, Page #22	Sept. 15, 2021	MS Vendor ID No. Question: Is it mandatorily required to bid on this opportunity? If yes, please confirm, how can we obtain MS Vendor ID no.?	Vendor ID no. is not required to submit a bid, but will be required to enter into a contract with a state agency.
Section 4 paragraph (f), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	Are the 2 hours of orientation billable?	If required to attend agency-specific orientation, this training will be provided and conducted on-site by the Contracting Agency; therefore, it will be billable time.
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	Are the shifts 8 or 12 hours long?	8 hours
Section 4 paragraph (k) Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	On average, how many total hours per week (or number of shifts) are expected to be covered by agency nurses (per type of nurse)? Please breakdown per location and discipline (type of nurse)	The number of hours or shifts will depend upon the needs of the Agency/Location.
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	What is the expected value of the contract for the first year?	The value will be determined post bid opening.
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	Is the contract based on daily staffing requests/as needed or will there be an option to staff long term block booking or on contract based on staffing trends recognized by the individual facilities?	This will be a requirements contract on an as needed basis.
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	Can you provide rates approved for these services under last term?	This information can be found at http://www.transparency.mississippi.gov/contracts/contracts.aspx
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	What is your current fill rate (% of requests filled)? Are roles filled by PRN staff or contracts?	The fill rate of the agency varies, there is no determination for percentage of PRN or Contracts at this time.
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6	Sept. 17, 2021	Are your current needs being met by current providers?	Current needs are being met.
Section 4.3.4, Page 9	Sept. 17, 2021	What are the performance standards used to determine if Personnel are performing satisfactorily?	Performance standards are based upon provider following the scope of work, adhere to agency policies and other factors.
Section 4.2.9, Page 8	Sept. 17, 2021	Who from the Agency will serve as Supervisor for clinicians onboarding to district policies, guiding to Contracting	For the main campus the Nurse Chief and for Community Homes the Director of Community Homes.

		Agency's requirements and answering daily operations questions/concerns?	
Section 4.2.11, Page 8	Sept. 17, 2021	What items might the Contractor be required to furnish regarding materials, tools, apparatus, and equipment? If Contractor is only structured to supply personnel and not able to furnish materials, tools, apparatus and equipment (beyond personal stethoscope), will that disqualify the Contractor?	No, materials and equipment shall be furnished, other than personal items of each provider.
Section 4 paragraph (k), Page 6 and Section #6.3, Page 10	Sept. 17, 2021	Are there any penalties associated with this bid solicitation should the awarded Contractor(s) fail to provide the necessary clinicians within the required 24-hour window?	There are no penalties.
Attachment F, section #20, Page 39	Sept. 17, 2021	Is the Contractor required to indemnify the Contracting Agency in the event any claims arise resulting from the Contracting Agency's negligent acts or omissions?	Not in the event the Agency is negligent.

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